



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER LOAN OFFICER OF WEST TEXAS BANK  
PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 36-year-old Sammy Acosta, former Loan Operations Manager of West Texas National Bank in Alpine, Texas, was sentenced to one year and one day imprisonment and ordered to pay \$119,000 restitution after admitting to embezzling money from the financial institution.

On February 17, 2004, Acosta pled guilty to one count of embezzlement. By entering his guilty plea, Acosta admitted that beginning in 1997 and continuing through 2003, he transferred money from WTNB accounts to his personal account. Acosta covered up his crime by making false entries to various WTNB income accounts and general ledger accounts.

"This case is another example of our commitment to aggressively prosecute those who steal other people's money," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "The U.S. Attorney's office and federal law enforcement authorities will continue to protect banks and other financial institutions from being victimized by fraud."

United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered Acosta to report to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons by June 30, 2004, to begin serving his sentence. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Glenn Roque-Jackson prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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